

# Torrance Herald

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SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 1962

## School Critics Backed

Parents and others who have voiced a disappointment in the degree of proficiency in basic skills achieved by their sons and daughters graduating from today's high schools got an unsolicited assist from a highly placed source this week.

While educators and administrators have been prone to shrug off complaints of the parents as coming from someone unversed in the finer subtleties of teaching, the complaint voiced this week by Lt. Gen. James E. Briggs might not be so easily waved away.

General Briggs is commander of the U. S. Air Force training command and it is his job to take 300,000 Air Force men each year and train them in a school system which teaches 2,300 technical courses.

Speaking before the World Affairs Council, General Briggs accused the schools of turning out a generation of "technological illiterates," and complained that schools face a crisis but that the public at large had not accepted the fact.

On this point, we feel the Air Force educator may have misplaced the blame — we believe the public is far ahead of the profession.

Colleges have been complaining that entering students were unable to read and write with skill required to handle college-level instruction.

Businessmen have complained that high school graduates have been insufficiently trained in the basic skills of reading and spelling.

School administrators have responded with a gobbledygook which translates, "leave the teaching to us who know what we're doing."

Since the beep-beep of the first Sputnik, significant advances have been made in the nation's elementary and high school programs; and the jogging by General Briggs should contribute additional advances.

His remarks, at least, should be taken as having a cloak of authority.

## A Slight Error

A report in the HERALD Thursday that the city's airport property "provided employment to 1,300 people with an annual payroll of more than \$8 million" shocked a few of the natives, if phone calls to this newspaper can serve as a barometer.

In an editorial published by the HERALD outlining the proposals for an airport revenue issue, we quoted Chairman Mervin Schwab of the Airport Improvement Committee on the value of present developments at the airport, including the employment and payroll.

What apparently was not made clear to some, however, was the fact that with the exception of an airport manager, four attendants, and the equivalent of 2½ security guards, the employment at the airport is provided by industrial and commercial tenants on the property. These include such industries as Hi-Shear, Sheridan-Gray, and Mayflower Trailer, and such commercial establishments as the Foods Co., Thrifty Drug, J. J. Newberry, Big Ben, and others who lease commercial property which is part of the airport.

Approval of the revenue bond issue next month will provide an additional \$1,225,000 to open other areas of the airport to commercial and industrial development, increasing such employment by private companies, thereby increasing the value of the facility to the residents of Torrance.

As we pointed out Thursday, this will be paid for by airport revenue and will not be taken from tax money.

In the meantime, the employee roster for airport personnel still stands at 7½ persons and the payroll is considerably under the \$8 million total for the many private businesses on airport property.

## Welcome Back, Lew

Announcement today that L. E. (Lew) Jenkins had been reassigned as manager of the Redondo Beach District of the Southern California Edison Co. will be greeted with enthusiasm by a large number of friends the congenial executive has in this area.

Always in the forefront in civic affairs of the community, Jenkins can be expected to take up those responsibilities once more.

To Lee Blanchard, who has been assigned to the general offices in downtown Los Angeles, we offer the thanks of the community for his service in recent years and wish him well in his new assignment.

To Lew Jenkins, we say, "Welcome home!"

## Out of the Past

From the Pages of the HERALD

### 40 Years Ago

The HERALD of 40 years ago had a list of "Why-Not's" on its front page gleaned from the Torrance Chamber of Commerce's first publication entitled "Torrance Whistle."

Here were a few:  
"Pave Arlington Avenue . . .  
Pave the road to Redondo . . .  
Get behind the men who are organizing the new building and loan association . . .  
Get some hustling transportation men to organize a local bus service."

If the present rate of increase in the goat population continues, Vista Highlands will become noted soon as the center of the goat fancier's paradise and these little dairy

animals will furnish the milk supply for a large area.

### 20 Years Ago

An honor roll of 530 names, representing Torrance young men and women in the service of their country, was published on the front page of the March 5, 1942 issue of the HERALD. At the top of the list were reproduced the pictures of our young men who had already given their lives in World War II.

Working from plans used in London for construction of similar air raid defensive structures, Torrance city water department employees this week were completing erection of the city's first

"light-trap" entrance. It is attached to the former Chamber of Commerce building now used jointly by the water department and the Civilian Defense Control Board.

Torrance may be located in the heart of what the Army has termed a "combat zone" and have a score or more industries busy on war production, but it is not in the 10,000 population class and is therefore not eligible to receive civilian defense equipment. This information was given the city fathers this week by Chief John Stroh after he attended an OGD meeting held recently in Los Angeles.

Most Western experts insist the neo-Stalinists exert continuous pressure on Khrushchev and his regime for a more belligerent attitude toward the West. If not for outright war, they want a tough, precipitate Berlin stand, maybe a new blockade — things like that.

## Cutting Up the Pie—

—FOR THE KIDS!



James Dorais

## Studies on Cybernetics Paint Gloomy Forecast

Ever since man lived in caves, one of his greatest preoccupations has been with finding ways to lighten his workload and shorten his work day.

His success in doing so has been known as progress, and up until now, progress has been considered a good thing. Today, however, the experts aren't so sure.

Two rather chilling studies, both sponsored by the Fund for the Republic, have just been published on the subject of man's future under "cybernation" — the new technology of automation and electronic computing machines. The prognosis is that progress is getting out of hand.

The first study, authored by Donald N. Michael, director of planning of the Peace Research Institute, predicts that within 20 years most of

today's blue and white collar jobs will have been taken over by machines that have no unions and take no coffee breaks. Statisticians, stenographers, dockworkers, miners, bank clerks, middle-management executives will be cybernated into oblivion. Only professionals whose tasks "require judgments about people by people" — educators, doctors, lawyers, artists and politicians — will be in demand.

This relatively workless future, however, will be a far cry from paradise. Husbands lying around the house all day will drive wives mad, and young people's careers will be devoted almost entirely to the pursuit of juvenile delinquency.

Taking up where Mr. Michael leaves off, the second study, by Fund for the Republic Vice President W. H. Ferry, declares that old theories of individualism cannot survive under cybernation. Government will have to take over.

As a solution, Mr. Ferry advocates "modern mercantilism" — a return to the pre-

industrial revolution economic system under which government planned and regulated every detail of economic life, people were rigidly compartmented into classes, and opportunity was firmly discouraged from knocking at doors.

Experts have been wrong, of course. It could be that cybernation, like the industrial revolution, will create more jobs than it displaces. Or the man around the house and his children, instead of having time on their hands, may find themselves working harder than ever on do-it-yourself chores they can't afford to hire from thinking machines. But the Fund for the Republic can't wait to reorganize society to conform to their theories — traditional U.S. methods of "pragmatic making-do" won't serve, they warn.

American conservatives have been accused of philosophically living in the 19th Century. If liberals adopt the adjustment-to-cybernetics line they'll be turning the clock all the way back to the 16th.

ROYCE BRIER

## A Neo-Stalinist Airs His Views on Comrades

Everybody knows Comrade Khrushchev's first name, but few know Comrade Suslov's first name. It is Mikhail. He is a pretty big fellow over there.

He is what the Western experts call a neo-Stalinist. They think he is at least the spiritual leader of the whole anti-Khrushchev faction of the Communist Party and the Central Committee.

To us he is sort of ectoplasmic. You rarely see him pictured or hear from him, and even allusions to him are oblique. So when he makes a speech you are a little startled. His recent appearance was before the social science professors of the Soviet universities.

Comrade Suslov doesn't believe in "coexistence," and says so. He told the professors you can't coexist with the bourgeois imperialists, perverse people who would try a Communist saint.

Most Western experts insist the neo-Stalinists exert continuous pressure on Khrushchev and his regime for a more belligerent attitude toward the West. If not for outright war, they want a tough, precipitate Berlin stand, maybe a new blockade — things like that.

Suslov did not go this far in his speech. He said the "problem" was how to exist on the same planet with the West without war.

His speech was abstract, but even so of interest. He enumerated four forces in the world damaging to the Soviet destiny: bourgeois anti-Communism (us); rightist socialism (some of it festering in Communist nations); revisionism (Tito, for instance); dogmatism (Albania for instance). He didn't allude to Red China. You will note, however, that in mentioning dogmatism he was approaching Khrushchev's position, for that is the precise epithet Khrushchev recently hurled at the Albanians.

Nor did Suslov refer to Stalin or the "cult of personality," maybe out of discretion.

But would you know what is the trouble with you of the bourgeoisies? Comrade Suslov has a list: parasitism, stealing, bribery, delinquency, bureaucracy, religious ideology, hired slavery, colonialism, aggressive designs. How can you coexist with that, he plaintively inquired.

But all this has only a sur-

## A Bookman's Notebook

## 'archy' and 'mehitabel' Author Subject of Book

William Hogan

Don Marquis was an Illinois boy who grew up to be a newspaperman. In the so-called Golden Age of New York journalism, the 1920s, Marquis became one of the giants of his craft, along with Ring Lardner, "F.P.A." Grantland Rice, Ben Hecht, Heywood Brown and others.

It was back in 1912, however, that he launched his "Sun Dial" column on the old New York Sun. There he created those extraordinary characters of American fiction, archy, a cockroach, and mehitabel, an alley cat. Their names were never spelled with capital letters because archy, the supposed author of those stories, could never manage the shift key on Marquis' typewriter.

A novelist, poet, playwright and all-around man of letters, Marquis once said: "It would be one on me if I should be remembered longest for creating a cockroach character." But that is what happened, and it placed Marquis up there with Joel Chandler Harris as an American humorist in the Mark Twain tradition.

There was much more to Marquis' life and career than the creation of archy and mehitabel. In "O Rare Don Marquis," a long, affectionate, occasionally stirring biography, the writer's friend and colleague, Edward Anthony, attempts to explain the man and the eccentric talent whose performance so brightened the period in which he flourished.

Anthony shows us that Marquis was really a haunted and dissatisfied writer and human being who sought to prove he was something more than a newspaperman. Like so many revered public figures, Marquis lived a tragic private life. He went blind and died a penniless wreck in 1937.

In spite of the basic tragedy, Anthony's story is a jolly portrait of an oddball artist, his friends and his times. Further, it is another contribution to the lore and

legend of a period in American history that seems to become more golden as the years recede and the anecdotes about it pile up. There are plenty of these here, as well as generous helpings of Marquis' work, wit, criticism and ideas. Here, for example, is one I like — archy's "austere artistic code:"

"I never thin, when I write nobody can do two things at the same time and do them well."

While Anthony's biography

may seem too long, too padded with detail, it does provide us with a unique account of an underrated American humorist-philosopher, always "toujours gai," like his brain child mehitabel, in spite of the overwhelming frustrations of his personal life. Among other things, this is an excellent story of newspapering, and first rate Americana from beginning to end.

O Rare Don Marquis. By Edward Anthony. Doubleday; 452 pp.; \$5.95.

## Around the World With



## DELAPLANE

"For four young women schoolteachers (22 to 23), can you suggest the best car deal for traveling in Europe? Or a source of information?"

Best source I've found is AAA for car buying, rental, insurance. They also have an excellent book, "Motoring in Europe."

The general rule seems to be this: If you are driving three months or more a car buy is cheaper. (You can sell it back if you like.) Shorter time, rent.

"... any good schools where our son, 18, can learn Spanish during the summer?"

Why not right where they speak it? There's a summer school at Guadalajara, Mexico University. Students live with leading families in the town. Box 7227, Stanford, Calif., gets the information.

"Did you write about taking a tour to South America..."

Braniff Airways is flying a tour. I'm on it for a South American series and doing some talks. You can drop me a card and I'll have Braniff send you the background.

"Who is that 'big hunk of muscle and answer to a tourist maiden's dream' you wrote about in Tahiti?"

The one who drives Rudy Tongg is Tane. Phone number is 92. Maitai roa.

"Can we rent a car in Hong Kong?"

Sure. The tourist agency in the Peninsula Hotel will set it up for you. But I think a car is a bother, even if you're living as far as the Repulse Bay.

Traffic is left-handed and pretty crowded. It's easier to take a cheap cab and ride the Star Ferry over to Kowloon.

"Do we have time to go into San Francisco for dinner between planes for Hawaii (three hours)?"

To be sure. Take the helicopter service to and from the Ferry Building, a nine-minute flight.

Helicopters service most big cities now: Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, Miami, London, and there's a helicopter service across Europe with Sabena.

Prices compete with the cab fare. And a lot surer on time.

"What clothes does a man need for round-trip by ship and 12 days in Hawaii?"

One tropic-weight dinner jacket and dress trousers; one lightweight suit, one pair dress shoes, two dress shirts.

For the rest, take two pairs of sport shoes, three light-weight slacks; buy your aloha shirts in the islands.

You spend most of your time in these and in bathing suit.

Good for bon voyage: "Luxury Cruise" by Joseph Bennett, \$4.50, published by George Braziller, Inc. A whodunit with a seagoing roll.

"A present for a boy of 9 that we can order from overseas..."

I just got my godson a two-foot teak model of a Chinese junk from Hong Kong—\$11 including shipping charges. Has a stand, sails, rudder, gangway, and makes quite a show.

Stan Delaplane finds it impossible to answer all of his travel mail.

For his intimate tips on Japan, Italy, England, France, Russia, Hawaii, Mexico, Ireland, and Spain (10 cents each), send coins and stamped, self-addressed, large envelope to the Torrance HERALD, Box RR, Torrance, Calif.

## Morning Report:

I don't know if entertainment is getting any better these days. But there's no doubt it's more expensive.

Hollywood bought the rights to "My Fair Lady" for \$5,500,000. This is more than George Bernard Shaw, who wrote the original play, made in his whole life. And he lived to be 87. Another movie, "Cleopatra," already has cost \$26,000,000 — not including the price of Elizabeth Taylor's hospital room.

For less than that, the Roman Empire staged the thing first — on two continents, with the original cast of stars, and with more extras — all in authentic uniforms.

Abe Mellinkoff



"Why doesn't the Department of Internal Revenue offer us our money back if we're not satisfied?"

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